REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 26-31, 33 and 35-38 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 29 and 30 are the independent claims.

In the outstanding final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite, rejected claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 28-31, 33 and 35-38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. (Japanese Patent Application No. Hei 5-344460) in view of Sarbadhikari et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,477,264), and rejected claims 8, 11, 14, 26 and 27 over Yamada et al. and Sarbadhikari et al. in further view of Yoshida (U.S. Patent No. 5,515,101).

In this response, Applicants amend claims 26 and 27, and traverse the §103(a) rejections. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Dependent claims 26 and 27 have been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the §112 rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Independent claims 1, 29 and 30 stand rejected under §103(a) over the combined teachings of Yamada et al. and Sarbadhikari et al. Each of these claims calls for assigning selected tag names to captured images in an electronic camera. More particularly, the claims specify that each tag name provides classification of two or more captured images. In addition, image files corresponding to the captured images are stored in tag name files corresponding to the selected tag names. The claims require that there are two or more tag name files and that each tag name file stores two or more image files.

The Examiner argues that the Yamada et al. reference discloses the above-noted limitations of claims 1, 29 and 30. Applicants respectfully disagree. The Yamada et al. reference teaches to use classification codes to identify images recorded on a floppy disk 14. As indicated in FIG. 2 of Yamada et al., the classification codes are recorded in a "queue track" portion 14a of the floppy disk 14, and images are recorded on tracks in portion 14b of the floppy disk 14. Yamada et al. state that "[a] classification code according to this embodiment is additionally written into this queue track every time a picture (image) is recorded on an empty track" (Yamada et

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al., Section 0006). The classification codes and corresponding images in Yamada et al. are therefore not stored using a tag name file configuration in the manner set forth in claims 1, 29 and 30.

The Yamada et al. reference further teaches that a separate classification code is generally used for each image recorded on the floppy disk 14. For example, Yamada et al. illustrate in conjunction with FIG. 6 an example of a "track map" which shows correspondence between tracks of the portion 14b of the floppy disk 14 and classification codes recorded in portion 14a of the floppy disk 14. It can be seen that each of tracks 1 through 9 in FIG. 6 has a designated classification code. Apparently, Yamada et al. contemplate storage of a single image per track, with any associated classification code being stored in the queue track portion 14a. However, it appears that there are not two or more image files associated with each classification code, as would be required in accordance with the above-noted limitations of claims 1, 29 and 30. The Yamada et al. reference also makes it clear that the images stored in portion 14b of floppy disk 14 are not combined with their corresponding classification codes into a tag name file having multiple images associated therewith, in accordance with the above-noted limitations of claims 1, 29 and 30. For example, Yamada et al. state that in the case of a newly-entered classification code, such a code is recorded on an area of the queue track corresponding to the relevant picture (Yamada et al., Section 0014).

The hierarchically-classified classification codes of FIG. 13 of Yamada et al. similarly fail to meet the above-noted limitations of claims 1, 29 and 30. More particularly, Yamada et al. teach that multiple levels of classification may be associated with each image (Yamada et al., Section 0020). However, there is no combination of multiple image files into a tag name file as claimed. Instead, each image has a large classification code, a medium classification code and a small classification code associated therewith, as is apparent from FIG. 13. Multiple image files are not combined into common tag name files as in the present invention. Instead, each image has its own separately-stored classification code or codes associated therewith.

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The Sarbadhikari et al. and Yoshida references fail to supplement the above-described deficiencies of Yamada et al. For example, the Examiner argues that Sarbadhikari et al. in column 11, lines 22-26 thereof teaches image transfer from a camera to a computer. However, even assuming for purposes of argument that this characterization is correct, the claims at issue call for a particular tag name file configuration and associated processing operations that are not disclosed in Sarbadhikari et al. The Yoshida reference is similarly deficient with regard to the above-noted claim limitations.
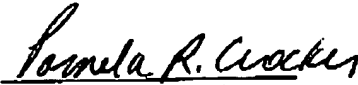
It is well settled that, in order to establish obviousness, the cited references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. As indicated previously, none of the references cited in the final Office Action teach the above-noted limitations of claims 1, 29 and 30 relating to tag name file configuration and the associated processing operations. It is therefore submitted that these independent claims are not obvious in view of the cited references.

Dependent claims 2-15, 26-28, 31, 33 and 35-38 are believed allowable for at least the reasons identified above with regard to their corresponding independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the proposed combinations of the cited references fail to disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 26 has been amended as set forth below:

26. (Twice Amended) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 7 wherein the signal port connects to the removable memory [card].

Claim 27 has been amended as set forth below:

27. (Four Times Amended) An electronic imaging system as claimed in claim 15 wherein the signal port connects to the removable memory, and the external computer provides the externally generated user customized [tag names] tag names to the signal port by writing the [categories] tag names into the removable memory.